

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An aligning apparatus having a prealignment stage 30 and a reticle stage 10 performs reticle alignment. First, rough alignment is performed on a reticle placed  
5 on the prealignment stage 30 such that a reticle mark is brought to a predetermined position. A reticle exchange hand 4 transfers the reticle from the prealignment stage 30 to the reticle stage 10. On the reticle stage 10, an image processing unit 31, a  
10 control unit 32 and a first image sensing mechanism 20, 21 perform high-accuracy alignment on the reticle such that the reticle mark is brought to a predetermined position. The reticle aligned on the reticle stage 10 is subjected to exposure processing or the like.